



U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs

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Biographical Statement of Paul Tsosie Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior

Paul Tsosie, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (Black Sheep Clan) of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, was appointed by Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk to the post of Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs effective June 15, 2009.

Mr. Tsosie joined the Interior Department from his law practice, Tsosie & Hatch LLC, of West Jordan, Utah, which he started in 2002 with law partner Calvin Hatch, a Tsimshian member of the Metlakatla Indian Community in Alaska. Tsosie & Hatch LLC focused on Indian law, and as a result represented various Indian tribes in Utah and Nevada. Mr. Tsosie also practiced criminal law, as both a prosecutor and defender, in various state, federal and tribal courts.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Tsosie worked as a lobbyist for the Navajo Nation on tribal-state matters and as a paralegal teacher for the Utah Career College class on Criminal Law and Civil Litigation. He also has served on the boards of several Salt Lake City-based organizations that address social and legal services needs of juveniles, American Indians and indigents.

Mr. Tsosie received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in Native American Studies (1997) from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He also holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from BYU's Romney Institute of Public Management (2002) and a Juris Doctor degree from the university's J. Reuben Clark Law School (2002). He also is a graduate of the Pre Law Summer Institute at the University of New Mexico, which is a program designed to prepare American Indian students for the rigors of law school.

Among his student achievements, Mr. Tsosie served as secretary (1999-2000) and president (2000-2001) of the law school's Minority Law Student Association and president (1999-2000) of its Native American Law Student Association. His honors include the BYU Faculty Award for Meritorious Achievement and Distinguished Service (2001 and 2002) and Native American Law Student Association Indian Law Award (2002), as well as the Utah Bar Foundation Public Interest Law Award and Scholarship (2000). Mr. Tsosie is the proud father of two children.

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